

Message Text

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ACTION IO-14

INFO OCT-01 AF-10 EUR-12 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00
NSAE-00 NSCE-00 SSO-00 USIE-00 INRE-00 PM-05 H-01
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FM USMISSION USUN NEW YORK
TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 3067
AMEMBASSY DAR ES SALAAM IMMEDIATE
INFO AMEMBASSY BONN IMMEDIATE
AMEMBASSY GABORONE PRIORITY
AMEMBASSY LAGOS PRIORITY
AMEMBASSY LONDON IMMEDIATE
AMEMBASSY LUSAKA PRIORITY
AMEMBASSY MAPUTO PRIORITY
AMEMBASSY OTTAWA IMMEDIATE
AMEMBASSY PARIS IMMEDIATE
AMEMBASSY PRETORIA IMMEDIATE
AMCONSUL CAPETOWN PRIORITY

C O N F I D E N T I A L USUN 3670

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PORG, US, SF, WA

SUBJ: NAMIBIA: CONTACT GROUP VIEW OF SWAPO TALKS

REF: PRETORIA 5366

1. WESTERN FIVE CONTACT GROUP MET AM OCTOBER 10 TO DISCUSS
CURRENT STATUS OF PROPOSED SWAPO TALKS. AFTER THOROUGH
CONSIDERATION OF ALL POSSIBLE OPTIONS CONCERNING
THOSE TALKS, GROUP AGREED THAT AMEMBASSY DAR ES SALAAM
SHOULD MEET WITH SWAPO PRESIDENT NUJOMA TO DISCUSS FURTHER
ARRANGEMENTS FOR THOSE TALKS. IN MAKING LAST DITCH
ATTEMPT TO HOLD TALKS IN NEW YORK, EMBASSY SHOULD UNDERLINE
FOLLOWING POINTS: A) THAT ALL OF THE MEMBERS OF THE CONTACT
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GROUP HAVE DUTIES AND RESPONSIBILITIES AT THE UNITED NATIONS
GENERAL ASSEMBLY WHICH EXTEND BEYOND NAMIBIA AND THAT THEIR
ABSENCE FROM NEW YORK WOULD ADVERSELY AFFECT THE PERFORMANCE
OF THOSE DUTIES; B) THAT IT WAS BECAUSE OF THE ABOVE
FACT THAT WE HAD EARLIER FORMALLY PROPOSED, THROUGH
MR. GURIRAB, MEETING WITH SWAPO IN SOUTHERN AFRICA IN LATE
SEPTEMBER WHILE WE WERE IN THE AREA. WE REGRET THAT SWAPO

DID NOT FIND IT POSSIBLE TO RESPOND TO THESE PROPOSAL.

2. IF IN CONVERSATION WITH NUJOMA, HE CONTINUES TO INSIST ON MEETING IN DAR, EMBASSY DAR MAY INFORM HIM THAT: (A) THE CONTACT GROUP IS PREPARED, ALTHOUGH RELUCTANTLY, TO MEET WITH SWAPO IN DAR BEGINNING MONDAY, OCTOBER

17; (B) THAT BECAUSE OF OBLIGATIONS IN NEW YORK AND THE TRAVEL TIME INVOLVED IN GETTING TO DAR, AN EARLIER START OF THE TALKS IS IMPOSSIBLE; AND (C) THAT THE CONTACT GROUP HOPES THAT NUJOMA WILL BE PREPARED TO REMAIN IN DAR AS LONG AS MAY BE NECESSARY (POSSIBLY TWO WEEKS) FOR THE PURPOSE OF CARRYING ON FURTHER DISCUSSIONS.

3. FYI: IF TALKS ARE TO TAKE PLACE IN SOUTHERN AFRICA, IT IS ESSENTIAL THEY TAKE PLACE IN DAR WHERE PRESENCE OF NYERERE AND MKAPA MAY PROVE HELPFUL. WE WOULD NOT FAVOR TALKS IN LUSAKA GIVEN GENERALLY SKEPTICAL ATTITUDE OF ZAMBIAN GOVERNMENT.

4. COMMENT: NEEDLESS TO SAY, THE NEW YORK GROUP IS MOST RELUCTANT TO RETURN TO SOUTHERN AFRICA AT THIS TIME. NUJOMA AND SWAPO SIMPLY HAVE TO DECIDE WHETHER THEY WANT A SETTLEMENT OR ARE CONTENT TO BE ARM CHAIR REVOLUTIONARIES WHO CAN ONLY FIND TIME TO JET SET AROUND THE GLOBE. OUR AGREEMENT TO TRAVEL TO DAR REFLECTS OUR DESIRE TO CONFIDENTIAL

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MAINTAIN THE MOMENTUM OF THE TALKS. WE ARE ALSO COGNIZANT THAT NUJOMA MAY ULTIMATELY ARGUE THAT THE TIME HAS COME FOR GROUP TO TRAVEL TO MEET WITH SWAPO GIVEN THREE TRIPS TO MEET WITH SOUTH AFRICANS. WE ALSO SEE ADVANTAGES OF MEETING IN DAR WHERE NYERERE MAY EXERCISE MODERATION OF INFLUENCE ON NUJOMA. FINALLY, TALKS WITH SWAPO, WHILE PRIORITY DEBATE ON NAMIBIA IS PROCEEDING IN UN GENERAL ASSEMBLY, MAY HELP TO MODERATE SOMEWHAT THE ACTIONS OF THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY ON THIS ITEM. IN THIS REGARD, THERE IS SOME SPECULATION HERE THAT NUJOMA MAY WISH TO AVOID PERSONAL APPAERANCE AT NAMIBIA DEBATE IN UNGA IN ORDER TO AVOID MAKING STILL ANOTHER MODERATE STATEMENT ALONG THE LINES OF THOSE HE MADE IN MAPUTO AND LAGOS.

5. OUR PRESENT THINKING IS THAT WE MIGHT TAKE ADVANTAGE OF VISIT TO DAR TO FOLLOW SCENARIO OUTLINED IN PRETORIA'S 5366 AND GO ON FROM DAR TO PRETORIA WITH PERHAPS RETURN TO DAR. IN THE END, HOWEVER, IT STILL MAY BE NECESSARY TO GET NUJOMA AND SOUTH AFRICANS TO NEW YORK AT SAME TIME IN ORDER TO WRAP UP AN AGREEMENT. A MORE DETAILED PLAN OF CONTACT GROUP'S NEXT STEPS IS CONTAINED

SEPTEL. END COMMENT.

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Message Attributes

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Disposition History: n/a
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